

109th Congress

# *Delivering On* AMERICA'S PRIORITIES



Mid-Session 109th Congress  
District Work Period

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SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

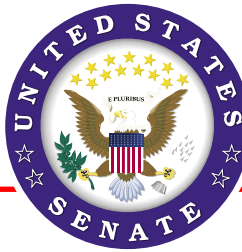
Rick Santorum, Chairman

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman



# SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman  
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman



## 109th Congress

November 18, 2005

Dear Colleague,

We have made significant progress on our agenda in this session of the 109th Congress. This recess packet will assist your efforts to communicate to your constituents that **we are delivering on America's priorities. We continue to work to create jobs and sustain economic growth.** We have major accomplishments, including passage and enactment of long awaited items such as a comprehensive energy bill, a highway funding bill, class action reform, bankruptcy reform, and CAFTA. We will continue to work to help the American people and further grow the economy through fiscal discipline and tax relief protection for entrepreneurs and families. In contrast, Democrats have no positive agenda to help America move forward. Republican pro-job policies are working, and we will do more:

- The unemployment rate decreased to 5.0% in October 2005, down from 5.1% in September.
- Over 4.2 million jobs have been created since May 2003.
- The Implementation of sound economic policies has reduced the FY 2005 deficit by nearly \$100 billion from FY 2004 and also has increased tax receipts.
- The Republican-led Senate approved the Deficit Reduction Act which further reduces the deficit, reduces spending, and keeps the economy growing.
- The Republican-led Senate approved the Tax Relief Act of 2005 that will continue tax relief as promised to the American people to sustain and expand economic growth.

#### **Senate Republicans are addressing rising energy costs that consumers are facing:**

- The Senate approved a comprehensive American energy bill to improve domestic production and reduce reliance on foreign sources of energy.
- The opening of ANWR, which the Senate passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, would help the U.S. become more energy independent while creating jobs in every state.
- The Senate Energy and Commerce Committees recently held a hearing regarding energy pricing and profits, which included questioning of the CEOs of the major oil companies.
- With the winter months shortly upon us, it is important that we communicate ways to save on energy and home heating costs. In the packet, you will find energy accomplishments and sample "energy saving tips". In addition, we have e-mailed a packet from the Department of Energy entitled, "Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy & Money at Home" to your press office. This packet can be distributed at town hall meetings, energy events, and can be made available in your state offices.

#### **Senate Republicans are working to secure our Nation through legislation that strengthens our borders, combats terrorism, and protects the men and women fighting for our freedom and their families:**

- The Senate passed the FY06 Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Bill which provides unprecedented funding to ensure border protection for those who wish to enter illegally and for those who wish to enter the country for illicit purposes.
- The Senate passed the FY06 Defense Appropriations bill.
- The Senate passed FY06 National Defense Authorization bill
- The Senate passed FY06 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.
- The Senate passed FY06 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill which provides funding to combat terrorism and promote democracy worldwide.

The Senate Republican Conference recently launched an effort to highlight the efforts of our men and women in uniform serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Numerous Republican Senators have given floor speeches on this topic. To highlight this effort, we have utilized the SRC website in a unique way. Several senators are sharing stories and narratives of military service members from their home states. The Conference is taking the video, audio, text of the speech and any photos or visuals used by Senators on the floor and packaging them on the SRC website.

The Conference continues to ask members to highlight the new Medicare prescription drug benefit as they go home for the holidays. With enrollment in Medicare prescription drug plans having begun on November 15, and coverage beginning January 1, members should help deliver factual information about the new law to their constituents during this critical period. We continue to encourage members to do PSAs. We have included detailed supporting resources on the enclosed CD for your constituent meetings.

We remind members to host charitable and faith-based roundtables in their states as an opportunity to listen to those groups helping individuals in need in our communities, as well as to highlight the Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday period. We have included a powerpoint agenda which outlines this long-term anti-poverty agenda that is particularly relevant and timely in the light of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Throughout the recess you will also receive questions regarding the important confirmation process of President Bush's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. You have received separate information on the confirmation process. Please make use of these materials as you interact with your constituents and spread our message of accomplishment and our positive agenda for the future.

Thank you.

Handwritten signature of Rick Santorum in blue ink.  
Rick Santorum, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Kay Bailey Hutchison in blue ink.  
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice-Chair

## Agenda





# *Senate Republican Conference Agenda*

***Republicans are Committed to Providing:  
Personal Security, Economic Freedom, and Opportunity  
and Compassion for every American.***

## ***Save and strengthen Social Security***

Republicans will save and strengthen Social Security by protecting promised benefits for today's seniors and those nearing retirement while offering younger workers increased financial security through a voluntary personal retirement account - a nest egg they can call their own and pass on to their children.

## ***It's your money***

Republicans believe simpler, fairer and lower taxes will promote job creation.

## ***Leadership in the war on terror to best defend America***

American security is dependent on combating terrorism, promoting democracy worldwide and supporting a well-trained and well-equipped military and their families.

## ***Deliver accessible, affordable and quality health care for all Americans***

Republicans will ensure that patients have access to quality and more affordable health care while lowering the cost of health insurance, offering more choices for services and increasing coverage for the uninsured.

## ***Stop abusive lawsuits now***

Republicans will end personal-injury lawyers' frivolous lawsuits to save jobs and ensure fair compensation for true victims.

## ***Fight poverty by empowering families in need***

Republicans will alleviate poverty and strengthen families first by encouraging an ownership society, providing work opportunities and partnering with faith-based groups, community charities and businesses.

## ***Promote good 21st century American jobs***

Republicans will create an environment to grow jobs by less taxation and litigation, sensible regulation, greater research and development, quality education and strong infrastructure.

## ***Lifelong learning for better jobs***

Republicans will develop a lifelong approach to education, training and research that prepares all Americans for jobs of the future, promotes access to college and ensures accountability of federal dollars.

## ***Clean energy for jobs and energy independence***

Republicans are committed to innovative new technologies to develop America's energy resources that create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and gas while preserving the environment.

## ***Cut wasteful spending and keep taxes low to create jobs***

Republicans pledge to create jobs through responsible spending, deficit reduction and lower taxes.

## ***Confirm fair judges through a fair process***

Republicans will confirm judges who will follow the law - not make the law - by ensuring timely up-or-down votes for all nominees on the Senate floor.

## ***Protect marriage for the good of families, children and society***

Republicans will protect marriage - a core social institution - from redefinition by activist judges.

## Accomplishments



*Republicans are Delivering on America's Priorities by moving forward on their agenda to provide personal security, economic freedom, and opportunity and compassion for every American.*

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## **Personal and National Security**

- Homeland Security Bill
- Defense Appropriations Bill
- Defense Authorization Bill
- Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- Patriot Act Renewed

## **Expanding Economic Freedom and Security**

### **Creating JOBS**

- Tax Relief Act
- Comprehensive Energy Bill
- Highway Funding Bill
- Pensions Reform Bill
- Central America Free Trade Agreement
- Bankruptcy Reform
- Social Security Reform (Obstructed)

### **Stopping Abusive Lawsuits**

- Class Action Reform
- Protection of Lawful Commerce Act

### **Reducing the Deficit**

- Budget
- Deficit Reduction Act
- 12 Appropriations bills completed with freeze on non-security related spending

## **Fighting Poverty by Empowering Families in Need**

- Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief Items
- Anti-Poverty Agenda
  - Family Opportunity Act (in Deficit Reduction Act)
  - Work Opportunity Act (in Tax Relief Act)
  - CARE Act – (key charitable giving incentives in Tax Relief Act)





November 14, 2005

## Major Accomplishments of the U.S. Senate During the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, First Session, to Date

This paper lists some of the Senate's accomplishments during the first seven months of the 109th Congress. Items are listed in numerical order of the public law number (or bill number if bill not enacted) under eight categories: Promoting Jobs and a Strong Economy; Cutting Wasteful Spending and Keeping Taxes Low; Defending America and Promoting Freedom; Helping to Ensure Quality Healthcare to All Americans; Assuring Opportunities for Lifelong Learning; Providing Affordable and Dependable Energy; Ending Frivolous Lawsuits; and Confirming Fair Judges through a Fair Process. This listing will be updated and re-issued periodically throughout the remainder of the Congress.

### PROMOTING JOBS AND A STRONG ECONOMY

**Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity (H.R. 3) – P.L. 109-59** *This law will authorize \$286.5 billion in funding for federal-aid highways, federal transit programs, and motor carriers safety programs for five years. It will provide financing for vital highway construction and repair projects, and provide states with the financing certainty necessary for longer-term infrastructure investment. Based on employment estimates produced by the Department of Transportation, this funding level will support more than 13 million American jobs. The law will also make a number of changes in federal law to provide states with more flexibility in both revenue and expenditure by ensuring a minimum guarantee for the Highway Account of 90.5 percent for 2005-2006, increasing to 92 percent for years 2008 and 2009, thus ensuring all states receive a more equitable percentage of the funding they contribute.*

#### **Dominican Republic – Central America – United States Free Trade Implementation Act (DR-CAFTA) – P.L. 109-53**

*This law implements the United States-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade agreement. This is the first free trade agreement between the United States and the Central American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as the Dominican Republic. This agreement benefits U.S. businesses by leveling the playing field with America's 12<sup>th</sup> largest market for exported goods; 80 percent of U.S. exports to this region are immediately duty-free with the remaining 20 percent becoming free by 2010. This "win-win" agreement also benefits Central American countries by helping to provide economic stability in these democracies, an issue vital to our national security interests.*

#### **Junk Fax Prevention Act – P.L. 109-21**

*This law will protect Americans from receiving unsolicited advertisements through fax machines. It amends the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit faxed advertisements unless the sender has an established relationship with the recipient or the advertisement contains a notice that the recipient may request that such transmissions desist.*

### **Family Entertainment and Copyright Act – P.L. 109-9**

*This law makes it a crime to use a video recorder in a movie theater or to distribute a copyrighted work before its release or commercial distribution. It also legalizes movie-filtering technology that blocks sexually graphic and violent content, and it encourages the preservation and restoration of scholarly works. The movie industry believes that in-theater video recording of movies is a significant factor in approximately \$3.5 billion in piracy losses.*

### **Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act – P.L. 109-8**

*This law, the first major revision to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code since 1978, makes improvements to the bankruptcy code in consumer, small business, and corporate contexts. In particular, the law ensures that only those individuals who earn less than their state's median income or those who are otherwise unable to pay their debts are able to wholly discharge them. At the same time, it ensures that those who have the ability to pay back some of their debt actually do so, rather than abuse the system. This law will save approximately \$3 billion annually for consumers through lower interest rates and better products and services.*

### **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill – Conference Report Agreed to**

This bill would provide \$100.72 billion in new budget authority for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration, and a wide array of Federal programs, mostly under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bill includes \$40.71 billion for the Food Stamp program \$28.85 billion in reimbursement for the Commodity Credit Corporations, \$12.41 billion for the Child Nutrition Program, and \$5.26 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

### **The Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R. 3058) – Passed Senate**

This bill would provide \$141.39 billion in total budgetary resources for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies. Important provisions in this bill include funding for: the Federal Aviation Administration, including \$3.39 billion for Grants-In-Aid for Airports to enhance airway safety; and funding for the District of Columbia.

### **Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) – Passed Senate**

This bill would provide \$604.44 billion in total budgetary resources for the Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies. This bill includes: \$29.41 billion for the National Institute of Housing, \$2.18 billion for the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and \$24.53 billion for Education for the Disadvantaged Account.

### **Nomination of Christopher Cox to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – Confirmed by Unanimous Consent**

*As the President's choice to be the country's lead securities regulator, Christopher Cox will continue to promote the values of free enterprise while increasing the transparency of our financial institutions. During his nine terms in Congress representing California's 48<sup>th</sup> District, Cox earned a reputation as a fair-minded protector of both taxpayers and investors. Cox was unanimously confirmed to serve the remainder of a five-year term, which expires June 2009.*

## **CUTTING WASTEFUL SPENDING AND KEEPING TAXES LOW**

### **The Deficit Reduction Reconciliation bill (S. 1932) – Passed Senate**

This bill would reduce federal outlays by \$39.114 billion for FY2009-2010 (and 108.716 billion over the 2006-2015 period). The bill includes provisions that would: provide net savings in Medicaid of \$4.285 billion over five years and Medicare savings of \$5.721 billion over five years; and provide \$11.2 billion in student



assistance while maintaining a net savings of \$16.431 billion over 5 years. This bill is the first deficit reduction reconciliation bill since 1997, and confirms Republican's commitment to controlling spending and working to offset the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

**Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95) – Conference Report Agreed to**

*This budget resolution would set total spending at \$2.58 trillion and total revenues at \$2.19 trillion. It meets the President's goal of cutting the deficit in half within five years by reducing the projected deficit from \$382.7 billion in 2006 (subject to mid-session review) to \$211 billion in 2010. With the exception of high-priority areas such as defense and homeland security, most spending programs are frozen at fiscal year 2005 levels. Notably, reconciliation instructions within the budget will achieve a \$34.7 billion net reduction in mandatory spending and reduce taxes by \$70 billion over the five-year budget window.*

## **DEFENDING AMERICA AND PROMOTING FREEDOM**

**Department of Defense Authorization bill (S. 1042) – Passed Senate**

This bill would authorize 441.6 billion in budget authority for defense programs in FY2006, with an additional \$50.0 billion supplemental for ongoing military operations in Iraq. The bill also authorizes funds for service members and their families, the bill includes: an across-the-board military pay raise of 3.1 percent; an increase in the death gratuity payable to survivors of military decedents to \$100,000 if the death occurs under combat-related conditions or in designated combat operations or areas; and an increase from \$250,000 to \$400,000 in the maximum amount of coverage available under the Service members' Group Life Insurance Program. The bill also includes additional funds for combating terrorism and to provide protective gear for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Service Members Group Life Insurance Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-80**

This bill would amend the provisions of the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program. This bill would allow for an increase in the maximum life insurance coverage allowed for an insured veteran or service member from \$250,000 - \$400,000, with coverage equally divisible in \$50,000 increments. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Defense to make a good faith effort to inform the spouse of an active duty service member if the member chooses to reduce coverage or designate another beneficiary of benefit.

**Renewal of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act – P.L. 109-39**

*As a means of promoting democratic rule and freedom of expression in Burma, this law places sanctions on the ruling Burmese military junta and supports and recognizes the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people.*

**Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 – P.L. 109-13**

*This law provides \$80.04 billion for ongoing military operations, postwar reconstruction and relief in Iraq and Afghanistan, aid for international partners in the war on terrorism, and homeland security needs. It includes \$907.3 million in relief for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, including \$656 million for the Recovery and Reconstruction Fund.*

**USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3199/S. 1389) – Bill in Conference**

*This bill would permanently renew 14 provisions of the USA Patriot Act and temporarily extend two provisions previously set to expire. This renewal is essential to prevent future terrorist attacks by providing law enforcement and intelligence agencies with the tools necessary to detect, apprehend, and prosecute terrorists and criminals.*

**Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, FY 2006 (H.R. 3057) – Bill in Conference**

*This bill would provide \$31.84 billion in total funding for the Department of State and foreign operations. It provides economic assistance and humanitarian aid, including \$2.87 billion to help combat HIV/AIDS, among other infectious diseases, and \$1.8 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation to reduce poverty in developing countries through economic growth. This funding affirms the United States' commitment to helping other nations in need, improving global health, and promoting freedom.*

**Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, FY 2006 (H.R. 2360) – P.L. 109-90**

*This bill would provide \$31.86 billion in new budget authority for the Department of Homeland Security. Significant initiatives in the bill include: \$7.8 million for the Coast Guard; \$5.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including funding for air and railway safety; increased funding for border security, to provide an additional 1,000 border patrol agents and 2,240 detention beds; and \$340 million for the U.S. Visitor and Immigration Status Indication Technology (US VISIT) to verify the identify of visitors with visas.*

**Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, 2006 (H.R. 2862) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would provide \$48.88 billion in new budget authority for the Departments of Commerce, and Justice, Science and other related agencies. In addition to funding these agencies, this bill includes several provisions to aid the Hurricane Katrina recovery including: \$139.3 million for the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program Account; \$284.0 million for Economic Development Assistance Programs; and \$1.08 billion for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance.*

**Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (S. 362) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would establish within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the United States Coast Guard a program to identify, reduce, and remove ocean debris to mitigate the harmful effects of debris on marine and coastal environments and to improve navigation.*

**Ocean and Coastal Observation System Act of 2005 (S. 361) – Passed Senate**

*Under the direction of the National Oceanic Research Leadership Council, this bill will establish an advanced warning system along the coastlines of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Great Lakes to improve early warning and detection systems for tsunamis and other maritime natural disasters.*

**State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Reauthorization (S. 188) – Passed Senate**

*This bill reauthorizes the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP provides financial assistance to states and local governments with authority over correctional facilities that incarcerate or detain undocumented criminal aliens. This bill reflects Republicans' commitment to provide the necessary federal support to keep our homeland safe.*

**Tsunami Preparedness Act (S. 50) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would provide for the improved operation of a tsunami warning detection system, under the Direction of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), for America's coastal regions. The bill also directs the Administrator to: establish community-based "tsunami hazard mitigation" programs in high-risk areas; provide support to the international entities to work with other participating nations to provide funding for a global tsunami warning system; and establish a program to improve the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters.*

**National Ocean Exploration Program Act (S. 39) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would provide for the establishment of a national ocean exploration program under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). This program*

*will: conduct archeological and scientific explorations of ocean environments including historic shipwrecks and little-known undersea regions; promote public education and discourse of ocean science; and work to improve the technical capability of U.S. oceanographic research.*

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (S. 1281) – Passed Senate**

This bill would authorize \$87.6 billion in budget authority for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for FY2006-2010. This provides the funding for NASA to continue the agency's important work in science, aeronautics, and the exploration of space. The bill also requires increased reporting and accountability by NASA, a program for a permanently sustained presence on the Moon, the development of a space commercialization plan, and a competitive prize program to encourage private sector development of space exploration and aeronautical technology.

**Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill (H.R. 2528) – Passed Senate**

This bill would provide \$82.98 billion in new budget authority for FY 2006. The bill includes: \$5.89 billion for military construction for the active and reserve component accounts; \$4.13 billion for family housing construction, operations and maintenance, and the Department's family housing improvement fund; \$1.5 billion for the base realignment and closure account (2005); and \$70.71 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs which includes \$23.31 billion for medical services to provide care for those Veterans whose service has kept all Americans safe.

**Department of Defense Appropriations, 2006 – Passed Senate**

This law provides \$440.22 billion in new obligational authority for the Department of Defense for FY2006. This bill includes \$50.0 billion in a contingent emergency reserve fund related to the Global War on Terror, fully funds key readiness programs critical to the Global War on Terrorism, and authorizes an overall Department of the Defense end strength of 2,259,000.

## **PROVIDING RELIEF TO FAMILIES IN GULF STATES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

**Gulf Coast Emergency Water Infrastructure Assistance Act (S. 1709) – P.L. 109-91**

This bill would allow States to provide subsidies and loan forgiveness for water treatment and water quality projects related to Hurricane Katrina for two years from funds allocated to states from the revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The bill also allows states to provide funds to assist water treatment plants, which are not included under the Safe Drinking Water Act, for a period of up to two years, and authorizes the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to test drinking water from private wells that may be contaminated as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

**Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-88**

This law will allow up to \$750,000,000 of the funds appropriated under P.L. 109-62, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Hurricane Katrina, to be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program for the cost of direct loans to be used to assist local governments in providing essential services.

**Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act – P.L. 109-86**

This law will authorize, and in some instances require, the Secretary of Education to waive certain matching funds requirements and reallocation rules, and to extend the availability of certain funds, to assist institutions of higher learning in the gulf regions impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, or who have accepted students from the impacted areas.

### **Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Act of 2005 (H.R. 3864) – P.L. 109-82**

This Law will provide vocational rehabilitation services for disabled persons affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita by redirecting funds, previously allocated under the Rehabilitation Act (RA) of 1973, to states significantly impacted by an event which the President has deemed a major disaster. The bill also waives nonfederal share requirements. States may use these funds to: pay for vocational rehabilitation activities; enable individuals to aid in reconstruction efforts; and enable individuals to assist in other activities in accordance with title 1 of RA.

### **Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-73**

This law will help victims of Hurricane Katrina by providing tax relief for individuals in the affected areas and for charitable donations for the assistance of hurricane victims. This law will allow for individuals to borrow up to \$100,000 from a retirement account without incurring a penalty regardless of age, and increases the limit on pension loans from \$50,000 to \$100,000; provides incentives for area business to hire displaced workers; eliminates the tax burden on debts cancelled due to hurricane damage; and provides additional tax incentives to support regional employment, reconstruction, *and with an emphasis on returning to independence*.

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-68**

This law makes immediate payment of TANF funds for the first quarter of FY 2006 to all states and makes additional TANF funds to states devastated By Hurricane Katrina by converting an existing loan fund into a contingency fund for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; holds states harmless for costs incurred to immediately assist evacuees; provides states with flexibility to spend unused TANF funds for families impacted by the hurricane; waives program rules for hurricane victims receiving short-term TANF assistance; and waive penalties on states resulting from the efforts to support families impacted by the hurricane.

### **Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act – P.L. 109-67**

This law amends the Higher Education act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to waive certain repayment requirements for students receiving federal grant assistance, provided these students: who resided in, were employed by, or attended an institution of higher education in an area the President declares a major disaster ; whose attendance was interrupted by the disaster's impact on them or the institution; or whose withdrawal ended within the academic year during which the designation occurred or during the next succeeding academic year.

### **Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act – P.L. 109-66**

This law amends the Higher Education act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to waive certain repayment requirements for students receiving federal Pell Grants provided these students: who resided in, were employed by, or attended an institution of higher education in an area the President declares a major disaster ; whose attendance was interrupted by the disaster's impact on them or the institution; or whose withdrawal ended within the academic year during which the designation occurred or during the next succeeding academic year.

### **Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 – P.L. 109-62**

This law provides an additional \$51.8 billion in emergency funding to continue recovery and relief efforts in the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

### **Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 – P.L. 109-61**

This law provides \$10.5 billion in emergency funding to provide immediate assistance to Gulf States affected by Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, this law provides \$10 billion to the Department of Homeland Security for disaster relief and \$500 million to the Department of Defense for operations and maintenance.

### **Medicare Cost Sharing and Welfare Extension Act of 2005 (H.R. 3971) – Sent to President**

This bill would extend the qualified individual Medicaid program through September 2006. This program provides benefits under Medicaid to individuals who would be qualified Medicaid beneficiaries but have incomes but have incomes that exceed the state-established income level, and are within 120%-130% of the poverty line. The bill would also extend through March 31, 2006, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant Program, Transitional Medical Assistance, promote abstinence education, child welfare, and child welfare waiver authority.

### **Judicial Branch Employee Participation in Federal Leave Transfer Program for Disasters and Emergencies (S. 1736) – Passed Senate**

This bill would allow employees of the Federal Judiciary branch of government to participate in any emergency leave transfer programs for disasters and emergencies.

### **Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal Act of 2005 (S. 939) – Passed Senate**

This bill would expedite payments of certain Federal emergency assistance by authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pay disaster relief applicants up to 50 percent of the Federal share for which that applicant is eligible. This assistance will help expedite the process of clearing and removing debris related to the Hurricanes public access roads and private property.

## **HELPING TO ENSURE QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR ALL AMERICANS**

### **Veterans Medical Services Supplemental, FY 2005 (S.A. 1071, to the Interior Appropriations bill) – P.L. 109-54**

*This amendment would provide an additional \$1.5 billion in funding to Department of Veterans Affairs to cover budget shortfalls in veterans' healthcare. This funding reflects our commitment to supporting the troops both overseas and at home, and will ensure that our returning servicemen and women receive the quality care that they deserve.*

### **Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act – P.L. 109-41**

*This law creates and implements a voluntary system of medical error reporting, so that preventable medical errors can be identified and actions can be taken to ensure that they do not continue to occur. Without these confidentiality protections, providers may not voluntarily report errors. Such reporting is critical to efforts to ensure patient safety and improve the quality of patient care.*

### **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (S. 306) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment. It would prohibit a group health plan or other provider of health insurance from adjusting premiums on the basis of genetic information and requesting or requiring an individual or a family member of such individual to undergo a genetic test. In the employment context, it prohibits the use of genetic information for employment decisions, such as hiring, firing, job assignments, and promotions.*

## **ASSURING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**

### **Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (S. 250) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins vocational education program with a number of reforms. These reforms would improve the academic focus and performance of all students, create a more effective and accountable system, build stronger partnerships between technical education and related businesses, and require states to develop an integrated curriculum of high school, college, and technical coursework to create an industry-recognized degree.*

## **PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND DEPENDABLE ENERGY**

### **Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2006 – P.L. 109-54**

*This law provides more than \$26 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal year 2006. It includes: funding for the Department of Interior; the Environmental Protection Agency; Clean Water State Revolving Fund; cultural agencies; and various other agencies. This law significantly increases funding for wildland fire management activities, and funds oil and gas leasing, timber and range programs, and other revenue-generating activities, which are estimated to generate income to the government of nearly \$14 billion in fiscal year 2006.*

### **Energy Policy Act – P.L. 109-58**

*This law provides a comprehensive national energy policy that will help meet America's long-term energy demands by encouraging greater domestic production, greater fuel diversity, and improved energy infrastructure. It also provides funds for the research and development of new energy technologies and encourages energy efficiency.*

### **Energy and Water Appropriations Act, FY 2006 (H.R. 2419) – Passed Senate**

*This bill would provide more than \$31 billion in new budget authority for fiscal year 2006. This funding includes: \$25 billion for the Department of Energy; \$577 million for Nuclear Waste Disposal (Yucca Mountain); and \$5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers. In approving this bill, Republicans defeated an amendment that would have reduced funding in the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) budget for an Air Force-led study of Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) concepts. The study would consider the feasibility of modifying existing bombs to address the growing number of hard and deeply buried targets used by our adversaries.*

### **Disapproval of an Environmental Protection Agency Rule Regarding Mercury (S.J. Res. 20. Passage)**

**– This resolution was defeated.** This resolution would have expressed disapproval with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to remove mercury emitting, coal fired power plants, from regulation under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), and place them under Section 111 of the CAA which allows cap-and-trade regulations. The United States currently produced approximately 1 – percent of the world's mercury and is the only country to restrict mercury emissions. Under the previous regulations, coal power plants would be required to reduce mercury emissions by 90 – percent within 3 years of 2005. In 2003, EPA's analysis concluded that such reductions were unnecessary and that the public health threat caused by mercury could be adequately addressed with a 70 – percent reduction over 12 years. This new proposal will save an estimated \$356 billion over 20 years.

## **ENDING FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS**

### **The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act – P.L. 109-92**

*This bill would address the politicization of our court system by a small number of anti-gun activists who have attempted to hold the firearm industry legally responsible for the criminal conduct of others. These frivolous lawsuits have forced the firearms industry to spend nearly \$200 million defending the right to produce a legal product. In the event of a large verdict, this relatively small industry could be destroyed, and Americans' ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights could be dramatically curtailed.*



## **Class Action Fairness Act – P.L. 109-2**

*The law curbs abuses in our courts that have driven up costs to consumers without benefiting the public. Over the past decade, class action lawsuits have grown over 1,000 percent nationwide, leading to increasingly unjust settlements that enrich a select few lawyers, while hurting plaintiffs and businesses in virtually every sector of America's economy. This law addresses these abuses by moving certain large, interstate class actions from state courts into federal courts and creates a consumer bill of rights to ensure that the class-action legal process protects the rights of plaintiffs.*

## **CONFIRMING FAIR JUDGES THROUGH A FAIR PROCESS**

### **Nomination of John G. Roberts, of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States – Confirmed 78-22**

Justice Roberts nomination was the result of unprecedented consultation between the President and the Senate. His nomination was confirmed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Senators.

### **Nomination of Priscilla Owen, of Texas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit – Confirmed 56-43**

*Justice Owen's nomination was filibustered by a partisan minority for more than four years before she received an up or down vote on the Senate Floor.*

### **Nomination of Janice Rogers Brown, of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit – Confirmed 56-43**

*Justice Brown's nomination was filibustered by a partisan minority for 22 months before she received an up or down vote on the Senate Floor.*

### **Nomination of William H. Pryor, Jr., of Alabama, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Confirmed 53-45**

*Justice Pryor's nomination was filibustered by a partisan minority for more than two years before he received an up or down vote on the Senate Floor.*

### **Nomination of David W. McKeague, of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Confirmed 96-0**

*Justice McKeague's nomination was filibustered by a partisan minority for three years and six months before he finally received an up or down vote on the Senate Floor.*

### **Nomination of Richard Griffin, of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit – Confirmed 96-0**

*Justice Griffin's nomination was filibustered by a partisan minority for nearly three years before he received an up or down vote on the Senate Floor.*

### **Nomination of Thomas Griffith, of Utah, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit – Confirmed 73-24**

*Democrats had threatened a filibuster of Mr. Griffith's nomination during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress and refused to allow his nomination come to a vote.*



# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

## INCREASING AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS



*"In 1970, half of the people in the world who held science and engineering doctorates were Americans, but by 2010 projections show that figure will have dropped to 15 percent. To keep America strong, we need our young people to take us to the next level of innovation. President Bush and the Congress are committed to ensuring America's high school graduates are ready for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

*-- Secretary Margaret Spellings*

**America's rapidly changing economy requires an education system that is producing graduates with the skills they need to be successful in post-secondary education and the workforce. America's high schools need to become more competitive to ensure that graduating students have the skills needed to compete for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Student performance is not just an education issue; it's an economic issue, a civic issue, a social issue, and a national security issue.**

➤ **Most jobs in today's economy require post-secondary training.**

- Approximately 80 percent of the fastest-growing jobs will require some postsecondary education.
- Only one in five graduates now in the workforce say they were adequately challenged by their coursework.

➤ **High school results are stagnant.**

- The recent Nation's Report Card (NAEP) has shown no progress for high school students in 30 years.
- For 17-year-olds, reading and math scores have remained flat since the early 1970s.
- Among ninth-graders, five out of 10 minority students fail to finish high school on time. Overall, three out of 10 ninth-graders don't finish on time.
- Twelfth-grade exit exams typically measure 9<sup>th</sup>-and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade skills, leading colleges and employers to discount results.
- 40 percent of high schools nationally offer no Advanced Placement courses.

➤ **Internationally, U.S. Education needs to do better.**

- The U.S. is ninth in the world in high school graduation rates among 25-34-year-olds.
- Studies show less than half of those who do graduate are ready for college-level math and science.
- In 2004, India's colleges produced 350,000 engineering graduates, compared to 70,000 in America. The elite 10 percent of India's youngest engineers outnumbers America's top 50 percent.
- Although U.S. fourth graders score well against international competition, they fall near the bottom or dead last by 12<sup>th</sup> grade in mathematics and science, respectively.
- On a recent international assessment of 15-year-olds' math problem-solving skills, the U.S. has the smallest percentage of top performers and the largest percentage of low performers compared to the other participating countries.

➤ **The cost to our Nation if we do nothing is high.**

- The one million students who drop out of high school each year cost our nation more than \$260 billion in lost wages, lost taxes, and lost productivity over their lifetimes.
- A high school dropout earns about \$260,000 less over a lifetime (present value in current dollars) than a high school graduate and pays about \$60,000 less in taxes.
- Because high school graduates are less likely to commit crimes, increasing the high school completion rate by just 1% for all men ages 20 to 60 would reduce costs in the criminal justice system by as much as \$1.4 billion per year.
- A one-year increase in average years of schooling for dropouts would reduce murder and assault by almost 30%, motor vehicle theft by 20%, arson by 13%, and burglary and larceny by about 6%.

# SAVE AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

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*Republicans will save and strengthen Social Security by protecting promised benefits for today's seniors and those nearing retirement while offering younger workers increased financial security through a voluntary personal retirement account – a nest egg they can call their own and pass on to their children.*

## **Senate Republicans understand that the American people want solutions to save and strengthen Social Security.**

- We talked to the American people about the problems facing Social Security – about how our parents and grandparents enjoyed the benefits of the system but that it wasn't going to be the same for today's workers and their children and grandchildren.
- We offered our own reasonable solutions – and we called on the Democrats to join us at the table to work together toward bipartisan reforms.
- We even put forward two moderate proposals to move the debate in the right direction by guaranteeing Social Security benefits for seniors, and stopping the raid on the Social Security surplus.

## **Senate Democrats have refused to come to the table on a bipartisan solution to permanently fix Social Security.**

- In the course of this last year, Democrats have been unified as partisans – not leaders – in the effort to reform one of America's most vital institutions.
- Instead, they have intentionally blocked our efforts – and have offered no solutions to the American public.
- The Democratic Leadership blocked Republican efforts to move two Social Security reforms this year. The legislation was far too important to our seniors and to our younger workers to be derailed by partisan politics.

## **Senate Republicans are committed to moving forward with solutions, willing to address a pending crisis as the insolvency of Social Security nears.**

- This issue is not going away – it must be addressed.
- Republicans will continue to lead with courage, vision and action to protect benefits for seniors and those nearing retirement, give younger workers the option of personal retirement accounts and to put Social Security on the path to long-term financial stability.
- While Senate Democrats continue to block the opportunity for bipartisan, comprehensive reform, Senate Republicans will continue to press forward with courage, vision and action to solve the problems facing the Social Security system.

# ***Leadership in the War on Terror To Best Defend America:***

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**Senate Republicans are Working to Secure our Nation through Legislation that Strengthens our Borders, Combats Terrorism, and Protects the Men and Women Fighting for Our Freedom and Their Families:**

## **Passed Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, FY 2006**

- Provides unprecedented funding to ensure border protection for those who wish to enter illegally and for those who wish to enter the country for illicit purposes.
- \$31.86 billion in new budget authority for the Department of Homeland Security.
- Increased funding for border security, to provide an additional 1,000 border patrol agents and 2,240 detention beds; and to verify the identify of visitors with visas.

## **Passed Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, FY 2006**

- President signed legislation that provides funding to combat terrorism and promote democracy worldwide.
- \$31.84 billion in total funding for the Department of State and foreign operations.
- Provides economic assistance and humanitarian aid to help combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and to reduce poverty in developing countries through economic growth.

## **Passed Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006**

- Provides funding for programs to continue combatting the Global War on Terror.
- \$440.22 billion in new obligational authority for the Department of Defense.
- Includes contingent emergency reserve fund related to the Global War on Terror, fully funds key readiness programs critical to the Global War on Terrorism, and authorizes an overall Department of the Defense end strength of 2,259,000.

## **Passed National Defense Authorization, FY 2006**

- Provides our men and women in uniform with the resources, training, technology, equipment, and authorities they need to win the global war on terrorism.
- Continues the commitment to improve the quality of life for those who serve and their families.

# Legal Reform Agenda:

## Stopping Frivolous Lawsuits



- ☒ Class action reform
- ☒ Bankruptcy reform
- ☐ Medical liability reform
- ☐ Asbestos litigation reform
- ☐ Protect charitable givers against lawsuits based on their donations
- ☒ Eliminate junk lawsuits against the firearm industry
- ☐ Enforce personal responsibility by ending junk lawsuits against the fast food industry by customers who complain that they are not eating healthfully
- ☐ Guarantee increased penalties for lawyers who file frivolous lawsuits
- ☐ Reform the nation's patent litigation system to enhance innovation in our science and technology communities
- ☐ Pledge of Allegiance Protection Act
- ☐ Multidistrict Legislation Reform

# ***Stop Abusive Lawsuits Now:***

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## **Passed Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act**

- President signed into law bankruptcy reform so that people who are responsible and pay their bills on time do not have to subsidize the irresponsible actions of a few.
- Ensures that those who have the ability to pay back some of their debt actually do so, rather than abuse the system.
- Will save approximately \$3 billion annually for consumers through lower interest rates and better products and services.

## **Passed Class Action Fairness Act**

- President signed into law class action reform that prevents greedy personal injury lawyers from pushing frivolous lawsuits, causing Americans to lose jobs.
- Curbs abuses in our courts that have driven up costs to consumers without benefiting the public.
- Addresses these abuses by moving certain large, interstate class actions from state courts into federal courts and creates a consumer bill of rights to ensure that the class-action legal process protects the rights of plaintiffs.

## **Passed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act**

- President signed into law legislation that addresses politicization of our court system by a small number of anti-gun activists who have attempted to hold the firearm industry legally responsible for the criminal conduct of others.
- Frivolous lawsuits have forced the firearms industry to spend nearly \$200 million defending the right to produce a legal product.
- In the event of a large verdict, this relatively small industry could be destroyed, and Americans' ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights could be dramatically curtailed.



# ***Promote Good 21st Century American Jobs***

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## **Senate Republicans are Working to Create More Jobs and Put More Money in the Pockets of the American People:**

### **Passed Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity (SAFE-TEA)**

- President signed into law a Highway Bill to make our roads safer, strengthen our infrastructure and create jobs.
- Provides financing for vital highway construction and repair projects, and provide states with the financing certainty necessary for longer-term infrastructure investment.
- Based on employment estimates produced by the Department of Transportation, this funding level will support more than 13 million American jobs.

### **Passed Dominican Republic – Central America – United States Free Trade Implementation Act (DR-CAFTA)**

- President signed into law legislation which will open up new markets for American goods by reducing hefty tariffs and leveling the playing field for American farmers, manufacturers, and workers.
- First free trade agreement between the United States and the Central American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as the Dominican Republic.
- Benefits U.S. businesses by leveling the playing field and help to provide economic stability in these democracies - an issue vital to our national security interests.

### **Republican Pro-Job Policies are Working:**

- 56,000 jobs were created in October 2005.
- Over 4.2 million jobs have been created since May 2003.
- Unemployment rate decreased 5.0% in October, down from 5.1% in September.

# Senate Republican Conference Jobs Agenda for the 109th Congress:



**Reduce the tax burden on American taxpayers and businesses** - Extend the lower dividend and capital-gain tax rates and the higher small business equipment expensing provisions through 2010, while working to repeal the death tax



**Energy Bill** - Allow American businesses the opportunity to provide reliable and affordable supplies of energy to meet America's growing needs while reducing its dependence on foreign sources of energy



**Highway Bill** - Provide equitable and reliable funding for necessary infrastructure projects

**Free Trade Legislation** - Approve negotiated agreements that bolster the U.S. economy and expand American job opportunities

**Trade Promotion Authority** - Extend President's authority to negotiate additional trade agreements to open world markets for American businesses and consumers

**Asbestos Bill** - Pass asbestos reform that will save American jobs and help injured workers. Target help to those workers injured by asbestos and protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits.



**Class Action Reform** - Reduce junk lawsuits by streamlining legal process to ensure that injured Americans receive compensation

**Welfare Reform Reauthorization** - Build on the success of previous welfare reform by expanding work opportunities and strengthening families

**Workforce Investment Act** - Provide American workers with enhanced opportunities to receive training for new and better jobs

**Workplace Flexibility** - Permit employers to establish voluntary compensatory and flexible time policies to give employees more choices

**Enhanced Workplace Safety** - Reform OSHA to increase compliance, reduce wasteful expenses and cut bureaucratic red tape in order to help minimize workplace accidents

**Higher Education Reauthorization** - Support accessibility and affordability of higher education for all students, and stronger links between post-secondary institutions and businesses

# ***Clean Energy for Jobs and Energy Independence:***

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**Senate Republicans are addressing rising energy costs that consumers are facing:**

## **Passed Energy Policy Act**

- President signed into law legislation that provides clean, affordable energy for a growing secure economy, and protects nearly 2 million jobs over the next decade.
- Provides funds for the research and development of new energy technologies and encourages energy efficiency.

## **Approved Funding for Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

- Established in 1981, LIHEAP is a block grant program under which the federal government gives states and other jurisdictions annual grants to operate home energy assistance programs for low-income households.
- Amendment to the Senate-passed Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2006 provides \$2.18 billion in funding for the LIHEAP program.

## **Approved opening of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)**

- The opening of ANWR, which the Senate passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, will help the U.S. become more energy independent while creating jobs in every state.
- Estimates reveal that ANWR will produce 735,000 jobs in all 50 states, and could contribute up to \$350 billion to the U.S. economy.
- ANWR represents a secure source of American oil that will help reduce U.S. demand on foreign oil for 25 years or more.

## As a result of Passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005:

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- Farmers across the country are investing in corn, soybeans and other crops that can produce billions of gallons of ethanol that, by 2012, will replace 2 billion barrels over the next decade of imported oil and create 234,840 new jobs.
- 24 new ethanol plants are under construction and 7 existing plants are being expanded. These new plants will add nearly 2 billion gallons of ethanol to the nation's fuel supply in 2006 -- a 50 percent growth in ethanol production capacity.
- The Department of Energy this month began work on a new program that allows the federal government partner with small, innovative companies to bring new energy ideas to the market place faster while protecting the private companies' ownership of their ideas.
  - Partnerships like this in the past have given us energy-saving technology like LED lighting, an innovative lighting that uses 90 percent less energy than traditional lighting.
- Thousands of megawatts of new electricity will be available to consumers in the next decade without harming our environment.
  - Eight Utility companies across the United States have announced plans to build 13 new nuclear power plants that combined, will produce at least 15 gigawatts of new power in the next 15 years.
  - If all 13 plants are built, the construction and operation of the plants would create approximately 18,000 construction jobs and **6,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs**.
- The federal government has invested resources into a technology forces carbon dioxide underground in mature oil fields, forcing oil to the surface while, at the same time, sequestering carbons that may affect our climate.
  - This technology is being tested at DOE's Weyburn oil development site and has already doubled the oil production at this mature field.

- Carbon sequestration at this one site alone could produce an additional 130 million barrels of oil and sequester as much 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Several coal companies have filed applications to partner with the government in building innovative clean coal plants across the country.
  - These plants allow the United States to use one of our most abundant fuels to meet our power needs while keeping our environment clean.
- Emerging technologies are being refined and brought to market that can help the U.S. create gas and liquid fuels from coal.
  - These technologies will help us use our 250-year supply of coal to reduce our dependence on imported gas and crude oil.
- According to the EIA, 56 percent of our petroleum needs are met by foreign governments. By 2025, that figure will rise to 70 percent.
  - Emerging coal technologies offer tremendous promise for turning that trend around.
  - For example, U.S. coal can be converted into clean, zero sulfur synthetic oil at a cost of \$35 to \$40 per barrel – compared to the current \$62 a barrel for traditional oil on the world market.

# Energy Saving Tips

Provided By

The United States Department of Energy

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- Sample Event Plan
- Sample Public Service Announcement
- Sample Column
- Energy Saving Tips
  - For the home
  - For your car
- Resources

## SAMPLE EVENT

**Summary:** Hold a press conference at a local home improvement retailer to demonstrate that, by taking easy and often inexpensive steps, consumers can significantly reduce energy costs this winter.

In some cases, large “big box” retailers host free weekend seminars where consumers can learn about the newest products and easy winter weatherization techniques.

**Staging:** Stores can arrange for a table displaying programmable thermostats, weather stripping, and energy efficient light bulbs as examples of inexpensive products that can result in significant energy savings.

**Run of Show:**

- (:10) Congressman Smith tours the store viewing Energy Star products, winter weatherization materials.
- (:03) Congressman Smith is welcomed by the store manager; Store manager highlights products available and easy ways consumers can save energy this winter.
- (:03) Congressman Smith offers remarks on steps Congress has taken to address long-term energy issues and free government resources that are available to consumers.
- (:15) Q and A



## **SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Hi, this is United States Senator Paul Smith.

This winter, as the temperatures drop, many Americans are thinking about higher heating costs.

But there are easy – and often inexpensive – steps we all can take to lower our home heating bills as the winter months approach.

Checking your furnace or heat pump to ensure it's running as efficiently as possible --- and making sure your attic, crawlspaces and walls are properly insulated can save as much as 30 percent on home energy bills.

And you can insulate your heating ducts. Un-insulated ducts can result in the loss of up to 60 percent of a home's warm air.

Finally, installing a programmable thermostat will ensure you don't pay for energy you aren't using. Turning the thermostat down just a few degrees a day while you're at work can result in big savings.

For a free home energy savings calculator and more tips on easy ways you can save energy, visit the Department of Energy's web site at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

This winter, taking a few simple steps will help save a lot on our energy bills.

### **ENERGY SAVING TIPS** **FOR THE HOME**

- **Turn off everything that's not in use** – lights in particular and computers; **unplug items that use energy even while not in use** such as cell phone chargers, power tools, portable or battery-powered vacuums.
- **Change regular light bulbs to energy efficient ones. This can save about 50 percent on the lighting portion of your energy bill.**
  - Energy efficient bulbs use about one-fourth the energy and can last up to 10 times longer.
  - Manufacturer and retailer rebates are available at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- **Close your fireplace dampers when not in use.**
- **Plug air leaks with caulking, sealing, or weather stripping.**
  - Weather stripping can save 10 percent or more on energy bills.
- **Install programmable thermostats.**
  - Programming your thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day while no one is home, or while everyone is tucked in bed, will cut your heating bill up to 10 percent.
  - The energy savings will pay for the thermostat in less than a year.
- **Do-it-Yourself Energy Audit Tool.**
  - Located at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)

- Consumers can input information about their home and the calculator will tell them how much savings they will experience if they change to energy efficiency technologies.
- **Look for Energy Star Products.**
  - Using EnergyStar products and appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and thermostats can save up to 30 percent on your energy bills.
- **Properly insulating attics, ceilings, floors, crawlspaces and exterior and basement walls** can save 30 percent on home heating bills.
- **Insulate heating ducts to prevent heat loss.**
  - Your system can lose up to 60 percent of its warmed air before it reaches the register, if ducts are not properly insulated.
- **Install storm windows.**
  - Storm windows reduce heat loss by 25 to 50 percent.
- **Properly maintain your heating system.**
  - Heating can account for almost half of the average family's winter energy bill.
  - Make sure your furnace or heat pump receives professional maintenance each year.
  - A heat pump can trim the amount of electricity you use for heating by as much as 30 to 40%.

## **ENERGY SAVING TIPS**

### **FOR YOUR CAR**

- **Avoid Aggressive Driving:** Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.
- **Observe the Speed Limit:** Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.21 per gallon for gas.
- **Remove Excess Weight:** An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your Miles per Gallon by up to 2%.
- **Properly Inflate your Tires:** Americans can improve gas mileage by around 3.3 percent by keeping a vehicle's tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires.
- **Change your Air Filter:** Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10%.
- **Get a Tune Up:** Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune can improve fuel an average of 4 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done.

## **RESOURCES FOR CONSUMERS**

Energy Savers Telephone Hotline:

1-877-337-3463

Energy Savers Website:

[www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)

Gas Gouging Hotline:

1-800-244-3301

# ***Cut Wasteful Spending and Keep Taxes Low to Create Jobs:***

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## **Senate Republicans Are Committed to Fiscal Discipline, Tax Relief and a Strong Economy:**

Concurrent Budget Resolution, FY 2006

- Passed a Budget that protects America, promotes economic growth, cuts taxes and keeps the United States on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009.
- Meets the President's goal of cutting the deficit in half within five years.

## **Passed Deficit Reduction Act**

- First deficit reduction reconciliation bill since 1997.
- Reduces the deficit, reduces spending and keeps the economy growing.
- Confirms Republican's commitment to controlling spending and working to offset the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

(Insert "Spendometer" & "FRR recess packet" attachment here)

## **Working to Pass a Tax Relief Bill that Aims to:**

- Provide rebuilding assistance to areas of the country devastated by hurricanes.
- Provide tax relief for American families by ensuring that there is no interruption in tax provisions that are expiring this year.
- Provide incentives for increased charitable giving while prohibiting transactions that misuse or abuse charitable organizations and their assets.

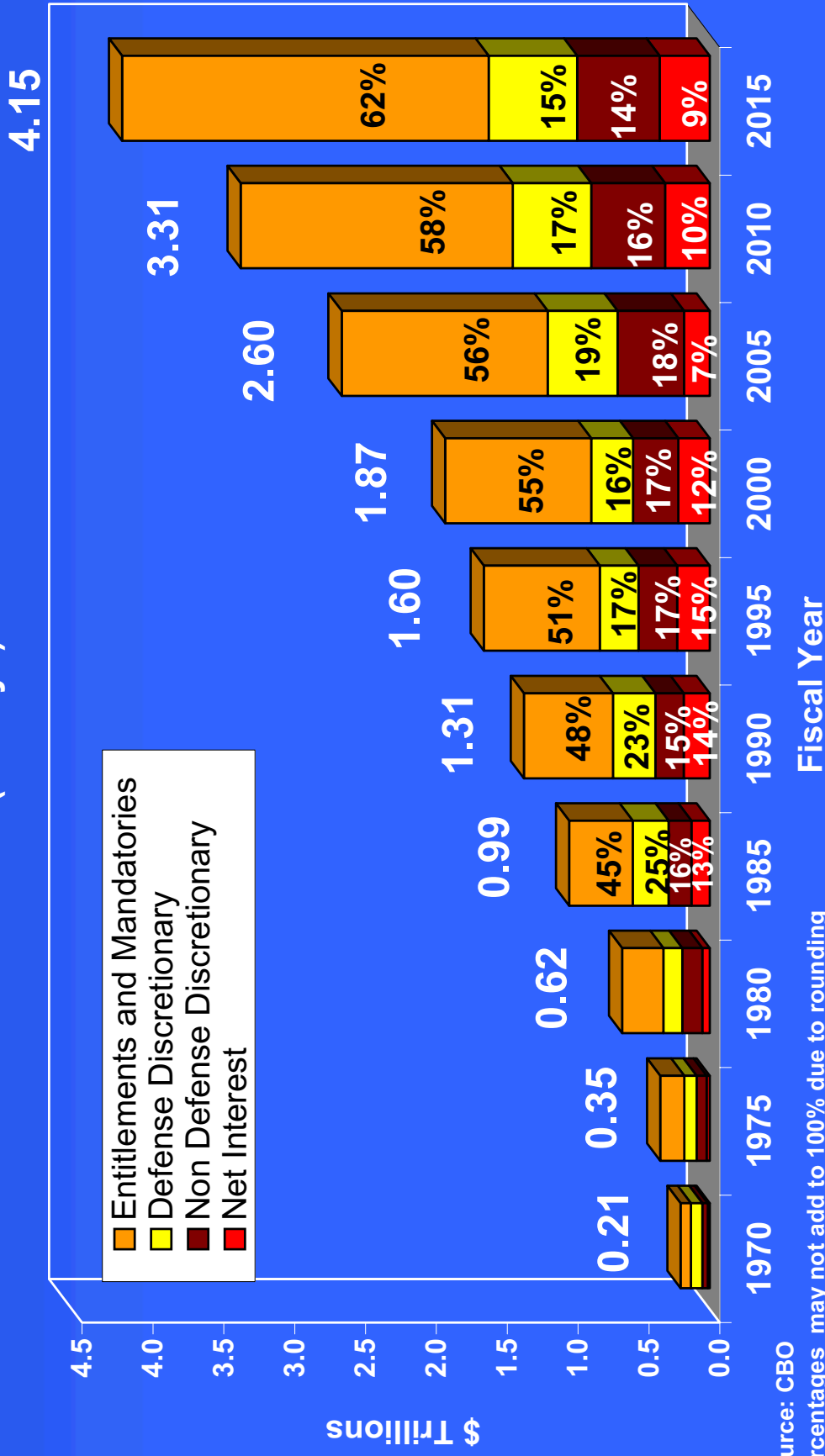
# **Senate Republicans Are Committed to Fiscal Discipline and a Strong Economy**

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- ✓ **Passed each of the 12 appropriations bills**
  - ✓ **Passed a Budget that protects America, promotes economic growth, reduces the tax burden and stays on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009**
  - ✓ **Implemented sound economic policies that have reduced the FY 2005 deficit by nearly \$100 billion from FY 2004, created over 4 million jobs and increased tax receipts**
  - ✓ **Approved the Deficit Reduction Act, which reduces the deficit, reduces spending and keeps the economy growing**
-

# MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE BUDGET (Outlays)



Source: CBO

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Total spending, assumes the CBO inflated baseline.



## **Deficit Reduction Must Be a Priority**

**On November 3rd, the Senate passed the Deficit Reduction Act, which contains net savings and deficit reduction of nearly \$35 billion over five years (2006-2010). The House plans to take up a similar version of the deficit reduction bill.**

*“The driving force behind this effort is the federal deficit and the out-of-control spending that is pushing it increasingly higher. This bill takes fiscally responsible steps to reduce the deficit, reduce spending that is on autopilot, and strengthen our economy. The bill also re-prioritizes some existing spending in order to provide better education and health care programs for low-income individuals and families. It is the first deficit reduction package in nearly a decade, and probably the most important legislation to be considered this year.”*

*-- Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg*

- **The current deficit situation is unsustainable:** End-of-the-year budget results from the U.S. Treasury show that the FY 2005 deficit was \$319 billion. While that is down from previous expectations due to a strong increase in individual and corporate tax receipts, it is still too high. We are on an unsustainable path that will jeopardize the economic stability of future generations.
- **Spending is the problem:** We are spending a lot more than we are taking in, despite the fact that our tax receipts are growing stronger. And that is putting a serious strain on our economy down the road. Mandatory spending is the biggest problem; these programs simply grow year after year on automatic pilot with no regular review by Congress. Automatic spending, excluding interest on the debt, now represents 56 % of all federal spending. Left unchecked, that will grow to more than 62 % in 10 years. Accelerating spending in several of the largest entitlement programs is on the verge of overwhelming our economy's ability to pay for those benefits as the Baby Boom generation begins to retire in 2008. We must find a way to slow the rate of growth of automatic spending to a level that is sustainable, given that the ratio of retirees to workers will be higher than ever before.
- **The Deficit Reduction Act is a step in the right direction:** Under the 2006 Budget Resolution, the federal government is estimated to spend \$13.8 trillion over the next five years. The Senate-passed Deficit Reduction Act seeks to reduce outlays by nearly \$35 billion over that time period, which is less than 0.3 percent of total federal spending. Many would argue that is not enough, considering that the last three enacted reconciliation bills in the 1990s included 2-3 times the amount of savings: in constant 2005 dollars, the 1990 bill cut mandatory spending by \$100 billion, the 1993 bill cut \$96 billion, and the 1997 bill cut \$118 billion, all over a five-year period. More needs to be done to reduce the deficit and control spending, but the Deficit Reduction Act is a step in the right direction.



- **The Act re-prioritizes spending to benefit more Americans:** The Senate-passed bill reduces bank and education lender subsidies and profits by \$21 billion, invests \$14 billion of the related savings into programs that assist low- and middle-income college students, assists K-12 public schools and families with children in K-12 private schools who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and reduces the deficit by \$7 billion. The bill helps to shore up the pension insurance system so that promises made to retirees are promises kept, and promotes U.S. energy independence so we can avoid costly domestic production disruptions and lessen our dependence on foreign oil.
- **The Act strengthens the Medicaid and Medicare programs:** The Senate-passed bill reduces the growth of the programs by \$29 billion over five years by more accurately calculating reimbursements to pharmacies and drug manufacturers, reducing waste and fraud, and clarifying Medicare reimbursement policies for insurance companies. It then reduces the deficit by \$9.3 billion and uses the remaining \$20 billion to strengthen and improve Medicaid and Medicare services. (Medicaid growth is being reduced by 0.7% over 5 yrs; Medicare growth is reduced by 1.0%)
- **We need to keep U.S. economy strong and growing:** Despite some serious economic set-backs such as Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, a recession, and a significant correction in the stock market, the U.S. economy has managed to stay resilient as the President and Congress have worked to enact sound economic policies and lessen the tax burden on families and businesses. That has produced 4.2 million jobs since May 2003 and generated a 14.6% increase in tax receipts this past fiscal year. Long-term interest rates are relatively low and homeownership is at an all-time high.
- **Future generations depend on Congress taking action now:** We want today's economic benefits to continue for future generations. But to make that happen, we need to control spending and reduce the deficit, while allowing Americans to keep and invest more of what they earn so that the economy can continue to expand and grow.

### **The Bottom Line:**

- **The current federal deficit is too high, and out-of-control mandatory spending is threatening the economic security of future generations.**
- **The Senate-passed Deficit Reduction Act, while reducing spending and the deficit, also benefits low-income students, patients and families.**
- **Senate Republicans have worked hard to achieve fiscally responsible savings and reduce the deficit – passing the 2006 Budget Resolution that puts the government on track to halve the deficit by 2009 and approving the Deficit Reduction Act. Meanwhile, their Democratic counterparts have offered no alternative plan.**

**To keep the U.S. economy strong and growing, the time to act on deficit reduction and curbing mandatory spending is now.**

# Democrat Spondometer

## Budget Authority - \$ Billions\*

Date SA# Sponsor Dems Vote Amendment '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 5-yr. Total

FY06 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 18)											
3/14/05	143	Bingaman	41	44-49	Education	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	24.6
3/15/05	147	Stabenow	45	46-54	First Responders	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	8.4
3/15/05	158	Byrd	42	46-52	Amtrak	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5.4
03/15/05	149	Akaka	45	47-53	Veterans	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	14.7
03/15/05	172	Harkin	43	44-56	Education	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	7.7
03/16/05	202	Dayton	36	37-63	IDEA	13.0	13.8	14.7	15.7	16.7	73.9
03/16/05	211	Dorgan	44	45-55	Tribal Programs	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	5.2
03/17/05	239	Biden	45	45-55	COPS	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	5.2
03/17/05	240	Byrd	45	45-54	Transit/Highway	8.9	8.4	8.6	10.1	10.3	46.3
03/17/05	244	Clinton	44	47-53	Abortion/Contraception	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
Emergency Supplemental (H.R. 1268)											
4/12/05	344	Murray	44	46-54	Veterans	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	10.1
Department of the Interior Appropriations (H.R. 2361)											
6/29/05	1025	Dorgan	45	47-51	Indian Health Care	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	5.2
CJS Appropriations (H.R. 2862)											
09/13/05	1661	Biden	40	41-56	COPS	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	5.2
09/14/05	1687	Stabenow	40	40-58	Interoperable Comm.	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	25.9
Defense Appropriations (H.R. 2863)											
10/05/05	1933	Bayh	43	56-43	Armored TWV	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.9
10/05/05	2033	Kerry	41	50-49	LIHEAP	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	16.0
10/05/05	1937	Stabenow	43	48-51	VA Healthcare	7.0	13.48	13.70	13.94	14.17	62.29
Homeland Security Appropriations (H.R. 2360)											
7/13/05	1202	Dodd	36	36-60	Emergency Personnel	16.1	16.4	16.7	16.9	17.2	83.3
7/13/05	1112	Akaka	42	42-55	Homeland Security	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.0
7/13/05	1189	Schumer	43	43-53	Air Cargo Security	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.6
7/13/05	1190	Schumer	36	36-62	Tracking HazMats	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
7/13/05	1217	Stabenow	35	35-63	Communic. Equip. Grants	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	25.9
7/13/05	1218	Byrd	43	43-55	Rail Transportation	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	6.7
Transportation Appropriations (H.R. 3058)											
10/20/05	2077	Reed	43	53-46	LIHEAP	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	16.0
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations (H.R. 3058)											
10/25/05	2213	Kennedy	44	48-51	Pell Grants	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	4.3
10/26/05	2275	Byrd	41	44-51	Title I	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	25.9
10/26/05	2292	Clinton	42	46-53	IDEA	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	20.5
10/26/05	2254	Dodd	42	47-52	Head start	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8
10/26/05	2194	Reed	42	54-43	LIHEAP	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	15.1
10/27/05	2287	Boxer	41	41-56	After School Programs	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.7
						94.9	102.9	105.4	109.3	112.0	524.6

\* Adjusted for inflation - 1.7%

# Fair, Up-or-Down Votes for Judicial Nominees

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## **Constitutional Option Fight Restores Fair, Up-or-Down Votes:**

Senate Republicans stood for principle against Senate Democrats' unprecedented judicial filibusters and threatened to employ the Constitutional Option to restore 200 years of Senate precedent for up-or-down floor votes for judicial nominees.

Facing the Leader's resolve to use the Constitutional Option, if necessary, the Democrats finally ended their filibusters of a group of highly qualified, majority-supported appeals court nominees, giving them the fair, up-or-down votes they deserved.

## **Appeals Court – Up-or-Down Vote/Confirmed: 6 Obstructed Appeals Court Nominees.**

1. Priscilla Owen – 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit
2. Janice Rogers Brown – D.C. Circuit
3. William Pryor – 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit
4. Richard Griffin – 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit
5. David McKeague – 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit
6. Susan Neilson – 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit

## **Supreme Court – Up-or-Down Vote/Confirmed:**

John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

## **Supreme Court – 2006 Outlook:**

Fair Process for Judge Samuel Alito, Nominee for Supreme Court Associate Justice:

Hearings are scheduled to begin Jan. 9 for Judge Samuel Alito of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit – one of the most experienced and qualified Supreme Court nominees ever – with an up-or-down vote expected Jan. 20.

Medicare



# Delivering on America's Priorities – Medicare Rx Drug Benefit \*

***Congress made a promise to America's seniors to deliver better Medicare and a prescription drug benefit.***

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The promise has been met – and a bipartisan bill passed Congress and is now law.

Traditional Medicare is strengthened and improved to keep up with advancements in health care, including disease management and preventive care.

For the first time ever, America's seniors enrolled in the Medicare program have access to a prescription drug benefit.

Medicare's prescription drug benefit will offer voluntary drug coverage to 42 million seniors and people with disabilities.

Beginning January 1, 2006, this coverage will be available to all people in Medicare.

It pays for both brand name and generic drugs, and offers a choice of plans.

Seniors who need the most help to pay for prescription drugs receive the most help under the new Medicare law.

Everyone in Medicare should give serious consideration to enrolling for prescription drug coverage.

Medicare will offer options of enrolling online ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) <<http://www.medicare.gov/>> ) and by phone (1-800-MEDICARE).

Tens of thousands of enrollment events will take place across the country. Some of these events will be sponsored by the Social Security Administration and by Medicare, or by organizations that represent seniors and patients.

Everyone who has a family member or a friend in Medicare has a vital role to play in helping educate these beneficiaries about the Medicare drug benefit.

\* See MEDICARE CD for additional information.

# Things to Remember about the New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program:

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Everyone in Medicare will find value in the Medicare prescription drug benefit and should give serious consideration to enrollment.

The Medicare prescription drug benefit will provide reliable, affordable and guaranteed coverage to medication.

Everyone has a vital role in educating people in Medicare about the new benefit.

## ***Important Dates:***

November 15, 2005 – Sign up starts.

January 1, 2006 – Coverage starts for those who signed up by December 31, 2005.

May 15, 2006 – Last day to sign up in 2006. Remember to join by this date or you will have to wait until November 15, 2006 to join and you may pay higher premiums.

## ***Additional Information:***

For more information about getting help with your prescription drug costs, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) <<http://www.socialsecurity.gov>> .

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) <<http://www.medicare.gov>> .

## ***Outside Resources:***

CMS: James Scott, Senior Legislative Advisor, Office of Legislation, (202) 690-8258

Medicare Rx Education Network: Eugenia Edwards, Senior Public Policy Specialist, (202) 457-5622

Medicare Access for Patients Rx: Mary Worstell, Convener, (202) 349-1152

Access to Benefits Coalition: Howard Bedlin, Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy, The National Council on the Aging (NCOA), (202) 479-6685

# Local Opportunities to Discuss Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

**\* Enrollment Begins November 15 Ends May 15<sup>th</sup> \***

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## Activities for Senators to Conduct in States

- 1. Educate Your Staff.** Make sure all your casework staff understands how to use the enrollment assistance tool, known as the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder, which is located on [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov). This will allow your office to assist to people with Medicare and their families who may visit your office or attend your events throughout the year.
- 2. Host a Local Town Hall Meeting.** Gather constituents to view “Medicare Rx: A National Conversation”, a half-hour program that will appear on CNBC on Saturday, November 19, 2006 at 6:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time). The program will provide important basic information about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and answer typical questions from people with Medicare. Follow the viewing by a local question and answer session with you and other local experts and counselors.
- 3. Attend Local Enrollment Events.** Attend one of the many local enrollment events going on in your state throughout the upcoming months.
- 4. Include Information in Constituent Communication.** Include information about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and information about how to get enrollment assistance in upcoming newsletters, e-mail alerts, on your web site or in another communication that will reach your constituents. Helping friends and families enroll in Medicare is a great New Year’s resolution. If you need additional information or materials for these upcoming publications, please call the CMS Office of Legislation at (202) 690-8220 and we will be happy to be of assistance.
- 5. Know the Resources Available in Your State.** Make sure your staff is trained to direct people with Medicare to appropriate resources. Many national and local organizations are available in your state to help your constituents learn about and enroll in this new benefit. Don’t hesitate to contact CMS and direct people with Medicare to any of these resources:
  - 1-800-MEDICARE – Available 24/7 with live operators able to help your constituents find the plan that best meets their needs.
  - [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) – Includes plenty of background material, the web plan finder and an enrollment center.
  - [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) – Plug in your zip code and you can find sources of personalized assistance in your neighborhood.

## **Key Messages about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**

- Message for day after Thanksgiving: Any time is a good time to talk about Medicare prescription drug coverage. A great time is Thanksgiving weekend. When the games are over and the dishes are cleared, when you gather around the kitchen or dining room table to catch up, take a few minutes to talk about this important coverage. It could change the life of someone you love.
- If you have Medicare and are ready to make a decision, you can enroll today. But enrollment is open until May 15, 2006 so take time to think about it, talk about it and review your options.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is available to everyone on Medicare regardless of income, current prescriptions and pre-existing conditions.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is new and it may take you some time to review your options, but you owe it to yourself and those you love to look into this new program because it will mean saving money and knowing coverage is there whether it's needed today or 10 years from now.
- Whether you feel you're an expert or know nothing about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, there is help in a variety of formats. Start by calling 1-800-MEDICARE, visiting [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), or by accessing localized assistance found through the Administration on Aging Eldercare locator at [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov).



## Poverty Alleviation



*As the Senate Republican Conference is asking members to hold charitable roundtable discussions over the upcoming recess to promote the Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda, the following organizations and agencies are available to assist you with your events.*

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### **Charities**

#### United Way

Patrick Lester  
Director of Public Policy and Partners  
United Way of America  
701 N. Fairfax St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
tel 703.836.7112 x 497  
fax 703-683-7856  
email [patrick.lester@uwa.unitedway.org](mailto:patrick.lester@uwa.unitedway.org)

#### Salvation Army

Major George Hood  
National Public Affairs Officer  
615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314-1112  
Business Phone 703-684-5526  
Fax 703-684-5538  
Email: [george\\_hood@usn.salvationarmy.org](mailto:george_hood@usn.salvationarmy.org)  
Car Phone 703-400-4575

#### America's Second Harvest

Halley Torres Aldeen  
Director of Research and Analysis  
America's Second Harvest  
[htaldeen@secondharvest.org](mailto:htaldeen@secondharvest.org)  
(312) 263-2303 x175

### **Agencies**

#### Housing and Urban Development

Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations  
Contact: Anyone in the above office  
Phone: 202-708-0380

#### Health and Human Services

Congressional Affairs  
Contact: Laura Ott  
Email: [laura.ott@hhs.gov](mailto:laura.ott@hhs.gov);  
Phone: 202-690-7538

## Soldiers Stories



# ***Soldier Stories:***

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The Senate Republican Conference has launched an effort to highlight the efforts of our men and women in uniform serving in Iraq & Afghanistan. Over a dozen senators have shared stories and narratives on the Senate Floor of military service members from their home states. The text of two Senate Floor speeches are found in this section: Senator Hutchison and Senator Bond. You will also find the audio and video of these speeches and Senator Santorum's Floor speech on the CD provided in this packet.

Senator Bond:

[http://src.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=States.Home&State\\_id=27&CFID=24508433&CFTOKEN=95224362](http://src.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=States.Home&State_id=27&CFID=24508433&CFTOKEN=95224362)

Senator Hutchison:

[http://src.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=States.Home&State\\_id=46&CFID=24508433&CFTOKEN=95224362](http://src.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=States.Home&State_id=46&CFID=24508433&CFTOKEN=95224362)

109th Congress

# Delivering On AMERICA'S PRIORITIES



Mid-Session 109th Congress  
District Work Period

<http://src.senate.gov>

SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman

